

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jacobs. Applicant has submitted, herewith, declarations of the inventors under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 including Exhibit "A", which establish an invention date before the September 27, 2000 filing date of Jacobs. Jacobs therefore does not represent prior art that can be used in rejecting the claims of the instant application.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 of the application is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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ON: August 9, 2004
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